

The first edifice built in Provo River Valley was a building made of <sup>Pine</sup> cottonwood logs. It was 20' x 40' and had a stone fireplace in each end. A small stage was arranged as an appended lean-to for entertainment purposes.

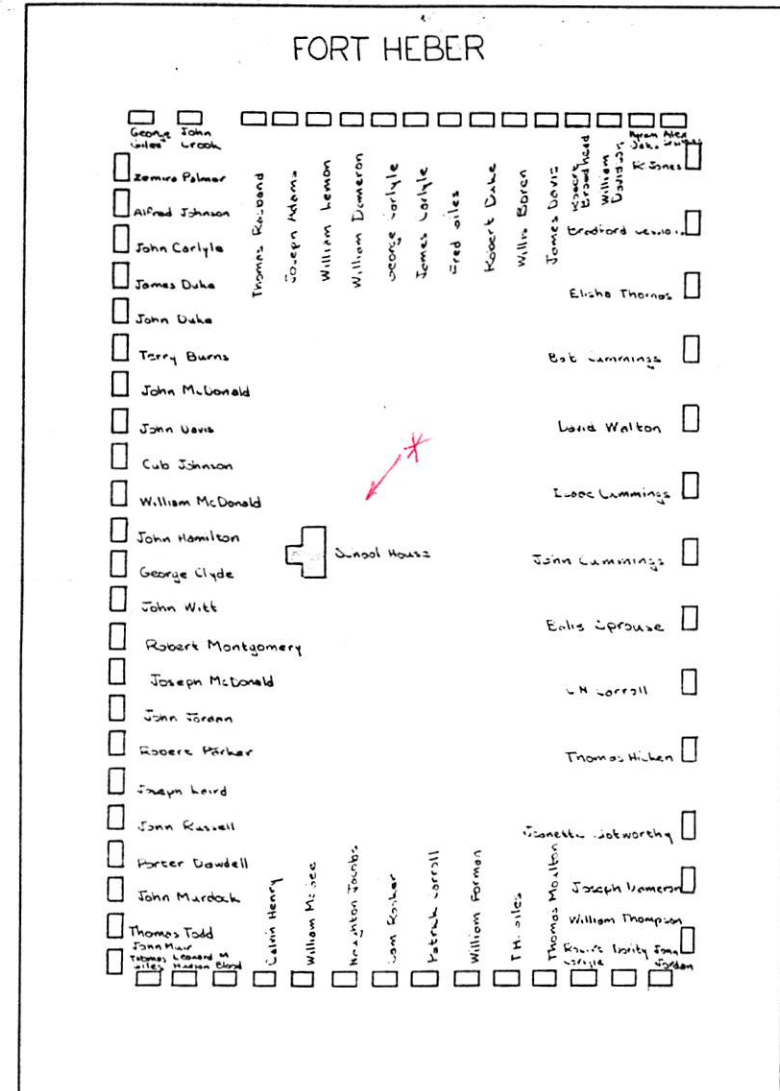
It was completed by 24 July 1860 in time for the celebration of the LDS Saints coming into the SL Valley on 24 July 1847 - just 13 yrs prior.

It was a combined meeting house & school

structure would serve not only as a church but also as a school building, a dance hall, a theatre and for all kinds of community gatherings.

The idea won immediate approval and everyone began to work with vigor on the project. Logs were brought from the hills and stone was quarried for the fireplaces and chimneys. Through the enthusiasm of the people the building was completed on time and used in the "Pioneer Day" celebration.

... AND THERE WAS LIFE IN THE VALLEY  
- "HBM"



Old Fort Heber showing the locations of the families who built their homes there in 1859.

The area for the fort was 80 rods square, lying between what is now First West and Fourth West Streets and 2nd North and 5th North Streets.

Within that fort area the company of men built their houses close together, with sufficient openings to let their stock in and out. The houses were built with green cottonwood logs that were cut on the river bottoms.

CHAPTER THREE  
*...And They Grew and Waxed Strong*

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Such was the case in Provo Valley as Spring came in 1860. Those who had endured their first winter in the valley eagerly set out to plant new crops, improve their log homes and visit once again in the lower valleys.

As better weather came, so also did an influx of new settlers. News that grain crops had matured encouraged many to come, and others were anxious to secure homes and water rights while good land was still available. They came for many reasons, but each possessed a pioneering spirit and each heart burned with the desire to carve from the earth a piece of freedom—freedom from want and freedom to worship God.

As summer came in June of 1860 there were more than 200 people living and working in the new valley. The greater part of what was called the "North Field" was put into cultivation and good crops were raised.

Early in July the people began talking about celebrating July 24th in commemoration of the pioneer's entry into Great Salt Lake Valley 13 years previously.

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celebration. 12

— "НВУМ".

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Before the original group left Provo City in 1859 they had appointed William Meeks as their leader. He never established a home in the valley and so early in the Spring of 1860 William Madison Wall was appointed as presiding elder in the valley. He chose as his counselors John M. Merdock and James Laird. Since all those in the valley were Latter-day Saints they looked to their Church leaders as legislative and judicial officials also.

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